

Message Text

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ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 PA-01 PRS-01
USIA-06 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /052 W
-----098834 311541Z /40

R 310905Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4373
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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BRUSSELS FOR FAA, ROME FOR FAA

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, MO
SUBJ: CIVAIR: DOT SECRETARY ADAMS TESTIMONY ON AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: STATE 020628 AND CASABLANCA 0115

IN LIGHT OF POSSIBLE LOCAL SENSITIVITIES, EMBASSY HAS PREPARED
FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY Q AND A PRESS GUIDANCE RE SECRETARY ADAMS'
REFERENCE TO CASABLANCA AIRPORT AS ONE OF FIVE AIRPORTS "OF
CONCERN." WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONCURRENCE IN THE FOLLOWING:

Q. HAS CASABLANCA AIRPORT (NOUASSEUR) BEEN SINGLED OUT BY THE
USG AS A DANGEROUS AIRPORT?

A. NO, THERE HAS BEEN NO SUCH CHARACTERIZATION. TESTIFYING BEFORE
THE SENATE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 25,
TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY ADAMS DISCUSSED METHODS OF COMBATTING
TERRORIST USE OF AIRCRAFT. HE NOTED FIVE MAJOR AIRPORTS,
CASABLANCA AMONG THEM, AS SUBJECTS OF "CONCERN" BY HIS
DEPARTMENT. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CHARACTERIZATION
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OF CERTAIN AIRPORTS BY PILOTS' GROUPS AS "DANGEROUS" FOR A
VARIETY OF PHYSICAL SHORTCOMINGS.

Q. HAS THE USG INFORMED THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT OF THIS CONCERN?

A. THERE IS A CONTINUING COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION
BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AND THE MOROCCAN

AUTHORITIES. INDEED A VISIT TO NOUASSEUR JANUARY 25-26 BY TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FAA DETERMINED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OF THE SECURITY POSTURE.

Q. DOES THE FAA INSPECT FOREIGN AIRPORTS?

A. THEY CONDUCT SECURITY INSPECTIONS OF U.S.-FLAG CARRIER AND CERTAIN FOREIGN CARRIER FACILITIES ABROAD IN THE COURSE OF COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SECURITY CONDITIONS.

Q. SECRETARY ADAMS REFERRED TO SANCTIONS IN HIS TESTIMONY. WHAT SANCTIONS CAN THE USG TAKE IN THE CASE OF AIRPORTS WITH SECURITY DEFICIENCIES?

A. SANCTIONS ARE ENVISIONED ONLY AS A LAST RESORT. AVIATION AUTHORITIES ARE GENERALLY COOPERATIVE, FOR THEY ARE AS CONCERNED AS WE WITH SECURITY. IN FACT, IN THE CASE OF MOROCCO, THE AUTHORITIES REQUESTED THE ADVISE OF THE FAA IN 1976 ON IMPROVEMENTS THAT COULD BE MADE IN SECURITY AT NOUASSEUR. SECRETARY ADAMS' COMMENTS WERE NOT MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF POSSIBLE U.S. ACTION UNDER PL 93-366.

Q. ARE SANCTIONS FORESEEN WITH REGARD TO CASABLANCA?

A. THERE IS NO SUCH ACTION CONTEMPLATED.

ANDERSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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